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BOOK SHELF.

War As It Is, By Wilhelm Carlsen. Translated from the Danish by Miss P. H. Peckover, of Wisbech, England. Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., Publishers, London.

This little book, just published, contains a series of brief sketches of war as it is, stripped of its deceptive music and pageantry. It contains forty-six illustrations, some of the most striking of which are copied from the Russian artist Verestchagin. Among the most striking of the illustrations are those entitled "Napoleon in Hell," "The Slaughter of the Ammonites," "Telemachus Staying the Combat," "Frozen to Death," "From the Crimean War," and "The War Prisoner's Path," though it is difficult to select among pictures all of which are so full of the startling realities of that which they depict. One can not rise from a study of the book, which he is compelled to make at half breath, without feeling that nothing is more remarkable in human nature than the power to quietly close one's eyes to the real nature of the ghastly and unspeakable immoralities of war.

THE MONTH'S NEWS.

Oliver Wendell Holmes celebrated his eighty-third birthday August 29.

The centennial of the birth of the poet Shelly was celebrated August 4 in many places in this country as well as in England.

The House of Commons met August 8. The Queen's speech, opening the Twenty-fifth Imperial Parliament, was read, and called forth considerable comment because of its shortness. Mr. Gladstone's speech was delivered on the 9th. The new Cabinet has been officially announced.

The cholera has increased in Russia and at the close of the month 150,000 deaths are reported. It has also spread to Hamburg, Berlin, Havre, Liverpool, and a few cases are reported in London. The United States authorities are taking every precaution to prevent its coming in at our ports, and a circular has been issued by order of the President, requiring all vessels carrying emigrants to be quarantined twenty days, except where the laws of the State interfere.

The striking switchmen of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, at Buffalo, N. Y., became so lawless that the civil authorities were not sufficient to protect the new men who were set to work, and the State troops were called out. Failing in instituting a general strike the strike was declared off on the 26th.

Marquis Visconte Venosta, ex-Minister and Senator, has been appointed Italian member of the Behring Sea Arbitration Commission.

President Baker, of the World's Columbian Exposition, who is in England, has sent his resignation to the board of directors of the World's Fair, at Chicago.

In accordance with the law passed during the last session of Congress, President Harrison issued a proclamation on August 20, fixing a tax of twenty cents a ton on Canadian vessels passing through the St. Mary's Canal, so long as discriminating charges are made against American freight in the Welland Canal.

The free miners rose against convict labor at Tracy City, Tenn., August 13. They besieged and captured the prison stockade, took about four hundred men from them and sent them to Nashville by rail. The stockades were burned and communication with the city cut off. There was an engagement between the State troops, sent to quell the disturbance and the miners, and several lives were lost. Order has been restored. The stockades are to be rebuilt and the convicts returned to them to work in the mines.

The situation at Homestead, Penn., is comparatively quiet. Three regiments of State troops still remain on duty. The works are in operation with something over a thousand men.

The Duquesne mills, where there was a sympathetic strike, have been started, the old men returning to work.

The planet Mars was at its perihelion, or nearest point, on the morning of August 4. This point is reached but once in fifteen years, and much was expected from the observations to be made at that time. These, however, have been somewhat disappointing owing to some unfavorable circumstances.

George William Curtis died at his home, West Brighton, Staten Island, Wednesday, August 31.

Word has been received at Washington that Chile has agreed to submit to a commission for settlement the claims of citizens of this country for damages during the war between Chile, Bolivia and Peru. The commissioners are to meet at Washington and their decisions are to be accepted as final by both governments.

On August 5 the United States House of Representatives passed, by a large majority, the bill appropriating two million and a half dollars to the World's Columbian Exposition. The House then passed hurriedly a few other bills, and the Fifty-second Congress adjourned.

The following were selected as members of the International Monetary Conference, to be held in some large city of Europe: General Francis A. Walker, of Massachusetts; Henry W. Cannon, of New York; Senator Allison, of Iowa; Senator Jones, of Nevada; Professor McCreary, of Kentucky.